

*09/533,547: Proposed Amendments to Independent Claims*

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sterilizing a biological material that is sensitive to ionizing radiation, said method comprising:

(i) reducing the residual solvent content of a biological material to a level effective to protect said biological material from said ionizing radiation; and

(ii) irradiating said biological material with a suitable ionizing radiation at an effective rate for a period of time effective to sterilize said biological material, wherein said effective rate is not constant and comprises a rate between 0.1 kGy/hr and 3.0 kGy/hr for at least a portion of said period of time and a rate of at least 6.0 kGy/hr for at least another portion of said period of time and wherein at least one sensitizer is added to said biological material prior to step (ii).

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30. (Currently Amended) A method for sterilizing a biological material that is sensitive to ionizing radiation, said method comprising:

(i) adding to a biological material at least one stabilizer in an amount effective to protect said biological material from said ionizing radiation, wherein said at least one stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of: ascorbic acid or a salt or ester thereof, DMSO, trehalose, mannitol, glutathione, tocopherol, 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid, polyhydric alcohols, ~~rutin and other~~ flavanoids and combinations thereof and

(ii) irradiating said biological material with a suitable ionizing radiation at an effective rate for a period of time effective to sterilize said biological material, wherein said effective rate is not constant and comprises a rate between 0.1 kGy/hr and 3.0 kGy/hr for at least a portion of said period of time and a rate of at least 6.0 kGy/hr for at least another portion of said period of time.

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